Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:TNILES:HM
APPROVED BY SECRETARY
AF:WEDMONDSON
IO:CWMAYNES
IO:GBHELMAN
P: GMOOSE
S/S: FWISNER
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O 071945Z APR 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 089708

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: RESPONSE TO UK CONCERN OVER US ACTIONS

REF: A) USUN 1257; B) LONDON 5366

1. IN RESPONSE TO MURRAY'S QUERY, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT NO ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN TO THE FRONT LINE STATES BEYOND THE PROSPECTIVE US STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY REPORTED TO CONTACT GROUP.

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE, MISSION AND EMBASSY LONDON MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO UK COM-
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PAGE 02 STATE 089708

PLAINTS OVER STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN ON WALVIS BAY ISSUE:

A) DURING DISCUSSIONS OF NAMIBIAN ISSUE WHICH THE PRESI-DENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD IN LAGOS WITH PRESIDENT OBASANJO, AS WELL AS OTHER SENFOR LFIICBALS OF NID-RIA AND FRONT LINE STATES, ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY EMERGED AS A PRIMARY CONCERN OF AFRICANS.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

B) ALTHOUGH AFRICANS ACCEPTED NEUTRAL TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE IN CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSAL AS ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION FOR TIME BEING, THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR ABILITY TO SEEK UNCONDITIONAL SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL

WOULD DEPEND UPON ATTITUDE WHICH THE US WOULD TAKE IN POST-INDEPENDENCE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN A NAMIBIAN STATE AND SOUTH AFRICA ON STATUS OF WALVIS BAY.

C) UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FELT THAT OVERALL INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY MAKING KNOWN TO AFRICANS OUR POSITION ON WALVIS BAY WHICH WAS DONE AT APRIL 2 MEETING (SECTO 3079) AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED IN FRONT LINE CAPITALS (SECTO 3080). UK AMBASSADOR FALLE WAS PRESENT AT THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 2 MEETING WITH THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE HAS PRESUMABLY REPORTED TO LONDON THAT, IN EXPRESSING THIS POSITION, THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR US AND NOT FOR OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS.

D) SUBSTANCE OF US POSITION SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP, AS WE BELIEVE THEY ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THIS POSITION. SOUTH AFRICA, ALSO, IS QUITE WELL AWARE OF WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER TO BE EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE.
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E) IN MAKING THIS STATEMENT TO NIGERIA AND FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES, THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR THE US AND COULD NOT COMMIT OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS. HE DID AGREE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH CONTACT GROUP AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY WHICH WE DID ON APRIL 3.

F) NO FURTHER ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN TO THE AFRICANS REGARDING NAMIBIA NOR WERE ANY SUCH REQUESTED BY THE AFRICANS BEYOND WHAT WE TOLD THEM ON WALVIS BAY.

G) IN VIEW OF THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP, THE US PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION ON THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE AT THIS TIME. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SAID PRIVATELY TO THE NIGERIANS AND THE FRONT LINE STATES WOULD BE HELPFUL AT SOME POINT DURING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NAMIBIAN INITIATIVE. AT THIS POINT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE MOMENT MIGHT COME DURING A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON NAMIBIA. AGAIN, WEWOULD STRESS THAT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OUR POSITION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO'S PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL.

H) US HIGHLY VALUES THE PRINCIPLE OF CONTACT GROUP SOLIDARITY ON THE NAMIBIA ISSUE, AS WELL AS THE OVERALL

COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THIS SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

3. EMBASSY LONDON MAY ASSURE ROWLANDS THAT ALTHOUGH NIGERIANS AND FRONT-LINE REPRESENTATIVES SPECIFICALLY ASKED U.S. TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY, THEY

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DID NOT ASK FOR OUR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS RELATING TO NAMIBIA. THE ISSUE WAS THEREFORE NOT DISCUSSED.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES PASSED ON ABOVE TO UK MINISTER ROBINSON APRIL 6.

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE089708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TNILES:HM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780004-0331
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 1257, 78 LONDON 5366
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3038309
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: RESPONSE TO UK CONCERN OVER US ACTIONS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, WA, UNSC
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3bf334b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
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